

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):

2       ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling  
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:

4       determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
6       automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
the instrument; and

8       when instrument calibration is past due:

10       ~~before the step of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,~~  
12       activating a restriction inhibiting the instrument from making a  
measurement, wherein the restriction is automatically activated by the  
instrument;

14       notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
16       is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

18       when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
20       calibration instrument,

22       ~~before the step of making the measurement, manually~~  
overriding the restriction; and

24       making the measurement;

26       otherwise:

28       removing the instrument from measurement service;

30       calibrating the instrument;

32       updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
34       reflect a new time that a new calibration is due;

36       ~~after the step of updating the calibration history stored by the~~  
instrument, removing the restriction inhibiting the instrument  
from making a measurement; and

38                                returning the instrument to measurement service;

40                                otherwise:

42                                maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended):

2                                The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the determination of  
instrument calibration status is initiated at a preselected clock time.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):

2                                The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the determination of  
instrument calibration status is initiated by the step of making the  
measurement.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):

2                                ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling  
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:

4                                determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
6                                automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
the instrument; and

8                                when instrument calibration is past due:

10                                notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
12                                is initiated automatically by the instrument;

14                                ~~after the step of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,~~  
obtaining the measurement uncertainty; and

16                                informing the user of the measurement uncertainty; and

18                                when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
20                                calibration instrument,

22                                making the measurement;

24                                otherwise:

26                                removing the instrument from measurement service;

28                                calibrating the instrument;

30                    updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
                      reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
32                    returning the instrument to measurement service;  
34                    otherwise:  
36                    maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):

2                    ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of  
                      an instrument, comprising:  
4                    determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
                      automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
6                    the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration  
8                    status comprises determining the calibration status for only those paths  
                      belonging to a sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument; and  
10                   when instrument calibration is past due:  
12                         notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
                      is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
14                         when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
16                         calibration instrument,  
18                         making the measurement;  
20                         otherwise:  
22                         removing the instrument from measurement service;  
24                         calibrating the instrument;  
26                         updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
                      reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
28                         returning the instrument to measurement service;  
30                         otherwise:  
32                         maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 7 (Original):

2           The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the step of calibrating the  
instrument comprises calibrating only those paths belonging to the sub-set of  
all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 8 (Original):

2           The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of updating the calibration  
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history  
4           only for those paths belonging to the sub-set of all measurement paths of the  
instrument.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended):

2           ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of  
an instrument, comprising:  
4           determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
6           the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration  
status comprises determining the calibration status for only those types of  
8           measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the  
instrument can make; and  
10          when instrument calibration is past due:  
12                               notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
14                               is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
16                               when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
calibration instrument,  
18                               making the measurement;  
20                               otherwise:  
22                                       removing the instrument from measurement service;  
24                                       calibrating the instrument;  
26                                       updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
28                                       reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
30                                       returning the instrument to measurement service;  
32                               otherwise:  
34                                       maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 10 (Original):

2           The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of calibrating the  
instrument comprises calibrating only those types of measurements belonging  
to the sub-set of all measurement types that the instrument can make.

Claim 11 (Original):

2           The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of updating the calibration  
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history  
only for those types of measurements belonging to the sub-set of all  
4           measurement types that the instrument can make.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended):

2           ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling the calibration of  
an instrument, comprising:  
4           determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
6           the instrument and wherein the step of determining instrument calibration  
status comprises determining the calibration status for only frequencies  
8           belonging to a sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the  
instrument is capable of making a measurement; and  
10          when instrument calibration is past due:  
12                   notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
14                   is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
16                   when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
18                   calibration instrument,  
20                           making the measurement;  
22                           otherwise:  
24                                   removing the instrument from measurement service;  
26                                   calibrating the instrument;  
28                                   updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
30                                   returning the instrument to measurement service;

32            otherwise:  
34                    maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 13 (Original):

2            The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of calibrating the  
instrument comprises calibrating for only frequencies belonging to the sub-set  
4            of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is capable of  
making a measurement.

Claim 14 (Original):

2            The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step of updating the calibration  
history stored by the instrument comprises updating the calibration history for  
4            only frequencies belonging to the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency  
ranges for which the instrument is capable of making a measurement.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended):

2            The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, further comprising:  
4            at preselected times prior to calibration due time for the instrument, notifying  
the user of calibration due time, wherein the notification is made automatically  
by the instrument.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended):

2            ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method for controlling  
the calibration of an instrument, comprising:  
4            determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
6            the instrument; and  
8            when instrument calibration is past due:  
10            notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
12            when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
14            calibration instrument,  
16            making the measurement;  
18            otherwise:

20                    removing the instrument from measurement service;  
22                    ~~before the step of calibrating the instrument,~~ obtaining  
24                    measurement history data for the instrument, wherein the  
                     measurement history is stored by the instrument;  
26                    calibrating the instrument;  
28                    updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
30                    reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
                     returning the instrument to measurement service;  
32                    otherwise:  
34                    maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 17 (Original):

2                    The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the  
                     instrument comprises calibrating those paths belonging to a sub-set of all  
4                    measurement paths of the instrument that conform to a preselected  
                     measurement history profile.

Claim 18 (Original):

2                    The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the  
                     instrument comprises calibrating those types of measurements belonging to a  
                     sub-set of all measurement types that the instrument can make that conform to  
4                    a preselected measurement history profile.

Claim 19 (Original):

2                    The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of calibrating the  
                     instrument comprises calibrating those frequencies belonging to a sub-set of  
                     all measurement frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is  
4                    capable of making a measurement that conform to a preselected measurement  
                     history profile.

Claim 20 (Cancelled):

Claim 21 (Currently Amended):

2                    ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~  
                     comprising: A computer readable memory device embodying a computer  
                     program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions

4           comprising:

6           determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
8           automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
10           the instrument; and

12           when instrument calibration is past due:

12           ~~before the instruction of notifying a user that the calibration is past due;~~  
14           activating a restriction inhibiting the instrument from making a  
16           measurement, wherein the restriction is automatically activated by the  
18           instrument;

20           notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
22           is initiated automatically by the instrument; and

24           when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
26           calibration instrument,

28           ~~before the instruction of making the measurement, manually~~  
30           overriding the restriction; and

32           making the measurement;

34           otherwise:

36           removing the instrument from measurement service;

38           calibrating the instrument;

40           updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
42           reflect a new time that a new calibration is due;

44           ~~after the instruction of updating the calibration history stored by~~  
              the instrument, removing the restriction inhibiting the  
              instrument from making a measurement; and

returning the instrument to measurement service;

otherwise:

maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended):

2           The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, wherein  
              the determination of instrument calibration status is initiated at a preselected



clock time.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended):

2           The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, wherein  
the determination of instrument calibration status is initiated by the instruction  
of making the measurement.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended):

2           ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~  
3           ~~comprising:~~A computer readable memory device embodying a computer  
4           program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions  
5           comprising:  
6           determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
7           automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
8           the instrument; and  
9           when instrument calibration is past due:  
10           notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
11           is initiated automatically by the instrument;  
12           after the instruction of notifying a user that the calibration is past due,  
13           obtaining the measurement uncertainty; and  
14           informing the user of the measurement uncertainty;  
15           when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
16           calibration instrument,  
17           making the measurement;  
18           otherwise:  
19           removing the instrument from measurement service;  
20           calibrating the instrument;  
21           updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
22           reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
23           returning the instrument to measurement service;  
24           otherwise:  
25           maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended):

2       ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, A computer~~  
3       readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions  
4       executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:  
5  
6       determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
7       automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
8       the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument  
9       calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only those  
10       paths belonging to a sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument; and  
11       when instrument calibration is past due:  
12  
13       notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
14       is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
15  
16       when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
17       calibration instrument,  
18  
19       making the measurement;  
20  
21       otherwise:  
22  
23       removing the instrument from measurement service;  
24  
25       calibrating the instrument;  
26  
27       updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
28       reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
29  
30       returning the instrument to measurement service;  
31  
32       otherwise:  
33  
34       maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 26 (Original):

2       The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 25, wherein the  
3       instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating only those paths  
4       belonging to the sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 27 (Original):

      The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 26, wherein the

2 instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument  
comprises updating the calibration history only for those paths belonging to  
4 the sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, A computer~~  
readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions  
4 executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:  
  
6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
8 the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument  
calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only those  
types of measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the  
10 instrument can make; and  
  
12 when instrument calibration is past due:  
  
14 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
  
16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
18 calibration instrument,  
  
20 making the measurement;  
  
22 otherwise:  
  
24 removing the instrument from measurement service;  
  
26 calibrating the instrument;  
  
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
30 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
  
32 returning the instrument to measurement service;  
  
34 otherwise:  
  
maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 29 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 28, wherein the  
instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating only those types  
of measurements belonging to the sub-set of all measurement types that the

4 instrument can make.

Claim 30 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 29, wherein the  
instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument  
4 comprises updating the calibration history only for those types of  
measurements belonging to the sub-set of all measurement types that the  
instrument can make.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 29;~~ A computer  
readable memory device embodying a computer program of instructions  
4 executable by the computer, the instructions comprising:  
determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
6 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
the instrument and wherein the instruction of determining instrument  
8 calibration status comprises determining the calibration status for only  
frequencies belonging to a sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for  
10 which the instrument is capable of making a measurement; and  
12 when instrument calibration is past due:  
14 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
16 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
18 calibration instrument,  
20 making the measurement;  
22 otherwise:  
24 removing the instrument from measurement service;  
26 calibrating the instrument;  
28 updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
30 reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
returning the instrument to measurement service;  
32 otherwise:  
34 maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 32 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 31, wherein the  
instruction of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating for only  
4 frequencies belonging to the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for  
which the instrument is capable of making a measurement.

Claim 33 (Original):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 32, wherein the  
instruction of updating the calibration history stored by the instrument  
comprises updating the calibration history for only frequencies belonging to  
4 the sub-set of all frequencies or frequency ranges for which the instrument is  
capable of making a measurement.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended):

2 The computer readable memory device as recited in ~~claim 20~~claim 21, further  
comprising:  
4 at preselected times prior to calibration due time for the instrument, notifying  
the user of calibration due time, wherein the notification is made automatically  
6 by the instrument.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended):

2 ~~The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 20, further~~  
~~comprising:~~ A computer readable memory device embodying a computer  
4 program of instructions executable by the computer, the instructions  
comprising:  
6 determining instrument calibration status, wherein the determination is made  
8 automatically by the instrument examining calibration history data stored by  
the instrument; and  
10 when instrument calibration is past due:  
12 notifying a user that the calibration is past due, wherein the notification  
is initiated automatically by the instrument; and  
14 when the user decides to make the measurement with the out-of-  
16 calibration instrument,  
18 making the measurement;  
20 otherwise:

22                                    removing the instrument from measurement service;  
24                                    ~~before the step of calibrating the instrument,~~ obtaining  
26                                    measurement history data for the instrument, wherein the  
28                                    measurement history is stored by the instrument;  
30                                    calibrating the instrument;  
32                                    updating the calibration history stored by the instrument to  
34                                    reflect a new time that a new calibration is due; and  
36                                    returning the instrument to measurement service;  
38                                    otherwise;  
40                                    maintaining the instrument in measurement service.

Claim 36 (Original):

2                                    The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step  
4                                    of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those paths belonging to a  
6                                    sub-set of all measurement paths of the instrument that conform to a  
8                                    preselected measurement history profile.

Claim 37 (Original):

2                                    The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step  
4                                    of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those types of  
6                                    measurements belonging to a sub-set of all measurement types that the  
8                                    instrument can make that conform to a preselected measurement history  
10                                    profile.

Claim 38 (Original):

2                                    The computer readable memory device as recited in claim 35, wherein the step  
4                                    of calibrating the instrument comprises calibrating those frequencies belonging  
6                                    to a sub-set of all measurement frequencies or frequency ranges for which the  
8                                    instrument is capable of making a measurement that conform to a preselected  
10                                    measurement history profile.

Claims 39-40 (Cancelled):